

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231244

65

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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MDGRIMES:REH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, UR, US

SUBJECT: EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING
IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. MOSCOW 12376, B. STATE 194802, C. 75 STATE 276944

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE VORONTSOV SEP 17 TO GIVE HIM THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN'S REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH THE APARTMENT PORTION OF SOVIET EMBASSY COMPLEX BEFORE WE BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON OUR PROJECT IN MOSCOW (REF B).

2. HARTMAN REAFFIRMED THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER MADE TO THE SOVIETS LAST NOVEMBER THAT WE WOULD AGREE TO AN EARLY BEGINNING ON THEIR CONSTRUCTION IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AGREEMENT TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO OUR FUTURE COMPLEX IN MOSCOW AND TO OUR LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE PRESENT EMBASSY (REF C). HARTMAN POINTED OUT WE WERE SIMPLY ASKING FOR SOME UNDERSTANDING THAT WOULD PUT US IN A MORE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 231244

EQUAL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THOSE THINGS THE SOVIETS

ENJOYED ON A ROUTINE BASIS HERE, I.E., HOUSING, SCHOOL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, ETC.

3. HARTMAN SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT MUST GET EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT TO DEVIATE FROM THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. THIS IS COMPLICATED BY THE MICROWAVE SITUATION. WE CAN MAKE A CASE FOR EARLY CONSTRUCTION IF WE ARE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE ACTION OR FIRM COMMITMENTS BY THE SOVIETS ON OUR REQUIREMENTS.

4. HARTMAN THEN PRESENTED VORONTSOV WITH A LIST OF THE REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED LAST NOVEMBER, ANNOTATED TO SHOW ACTION BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO DATE (COPY BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY). HE REITERATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT NECESSARILY LOOKING FOR A SINGLE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD TIE THEIR HEADSTART TO OUR REQUIREMENTS, BUT WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH ACTUAL ACTION ON OUR NEEDS OR FIRM COMMITMENTS THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE FULFILLED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES.

5. VORONTSOV SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE PAPER AND RESPOND IN DUE COURSE ADDING THAT DEPUTY MINISTER KORNIYENKO WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN DETAIL WHEN HE COMES TO THE UNGA WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. ROBINSON

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